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Performances for Adults

Delight Your Audience

Dave Ruch is a full-time performer and researcher of historical and traditional music whose work has been featured on American Public Media, in Emmy Award-winning documentaries, and on stages across North America and the U.K.

“Dave is phenomenal”

— Sara Ogger, Phd, Executive Director, The New York Council For The Humanities

With expert musicianship and a warm, effortless style, he delights adult audiences with authentic songs and stories from the people who built and settled our communities – farmers, domestics, lumbermen, fiddlers, women, soldiers, children, immigrants, sailors, native americans, canallers, and more.

“Mighty...the audience loved it”

— *Mick Moloney, National Heritage Award-Winning Musician, Folklorist and Author*

Dave finds his song material in dusty archives, obscure songbooks, diaries, old field recordings, scholarly journals and sometimes from his own children, and brings these gems to life with great skill on banjo, guitar, mandolin, octave mandolin, bones, spoons, washboard and jaw harp.

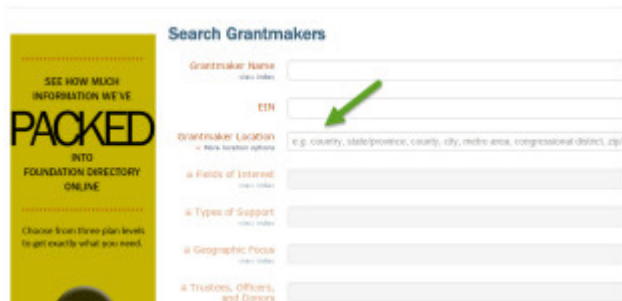
“People lined up to comment about how engaging you are”

— *Jill Breit, Executive Director, Traditional Arts in Upstate New York (TAUNY), Canton NY*

Dave Ruch is a Public Scholar for the New York Council for the Humanities, a writer for The Huffington Post, and a member of the New York State Historical Association, Canal Society of New York State, New York Folklore Society, and the Western New York Association of Historical Agencies.

“Dave knows how to hold his audience spellbound”

— *Sylvia Parker & Betty Tabor, Mayfield NY Historical Society*



The image shows a 'Search Grantmakers' form. On the left is a yellow box with the text: 'SEE HOW MUCH INFORMATION WE'VE PACKED INTO FOUNDATION DIRECTORY ONLINE. Choose from three plan levels to get exactly what you need.' The form itself has the following fields: 'Grantmaker Name' (with a 'view notes' link), 'EIN' (highlighted with a green arrow), 'Grantmaker Location' (with a 'view location options' link and a placeholder 'e.g. county, state/province, county, city, metro area, congressional district, zip'), 'Fields of Interest' (with a 'view notes' link), 'Types of Support' (with a 'view notes' link), 'Geographic Focus' (with a 'view notes' link), and 'Trusts, Officers, and Directors'.

[Grant Funding For Performances and Lectures](https://daveruch.com/performances-for-adults/)



[History through Music – A Concert Video](#)



[Ermina Pincombe – Music in an Adirondack Family](#)



[How to Play the Spoons](#)



[The Event Promotion Tip You May Be Overlooking](#)

Program Options



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[Traditional Songs of New York State](#)

Dave's "signature concert"! Lively presentations of songs and ditties from all corners of the Empire State.

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Ballads, Bunkhouses, Fiddles and Flings: Traditional Adirondack Music

A fascinating concert of traditional Adirondack music from the logging camps, farms, kitchens, battlefields and dance halls of the region.

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[Learn More](#)

◀ 2



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The WAR of 1812: Songs and Stories from NY and Beyond

In this lecture/concert, Dave Ruch presents a fascinating portrait of the War of 1812 through the songs and stories of the people themselves.

[Learn More](#)

[Learn More](#)



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[**The American Songbag – Traditional American Folk Songs**](#)

Banjo, mandolin, guitar, bones, spoons, jaw harp and more combine for a special program of sea shanties, cowboy songs, blues and more.

[Learn More](#)

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[Learn More](#)

◀ 1

◀ 3



[Read More](#)

The Erie Canal Concert

A treasure trove of songs, stories, musical instruments and dance pieces from the colorful days of “Clinton’s Ditch.”

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[Learn More](#)

◀ 7

Ideal Audiences for Dave's Programs

Dave’s concerts are designed for seated, captive audiences who enjoy learning something while they’re being entertained. Perfect for:

- lecture series
- concert series
- arts centers
- museums
- libraries
- historical societies
- colleges and universities
- folk music events
- heritage events



Spencerport Depot @SpptCanalMuseum · 11 Jul 2015

Thanks to @daveruchmusic for a wonderful concert and spoons lesson! #HeritageDay

Pricing

How Much Does a Concert Cost?

This will always vary according to how much travel is involved, the number of performances/workshops desired, etc. As a general rule, prices start in the \$400-700 range plus travel expenses. An exact price quote will be given right away through email (“dave” at “daveruch.com”) or over the phone once you’ve indicated the number of programs, workshops, and/or concerts you’re interested in, the exact location of the performances, and the range of dates you’re considering. There may be discounts available if your dates are flexible.

“A sublime performance”

– Sara Kipp, Director, Stillwater NY Free Library

Folk and Other Music Festivals

Dave loves to teach and perform at music weekends and festivals.

In addition to main stage concerts, a wide variety of workshop topics are available covering instrumental instruction, music theory, songfinding, careers for performers and more.

Samples topics include the following:

Instrumental

- Mandolin styles, beginning to advanced (folk, bluegrass, swing, rock, blues, ethnic/world)
- Guitar styles, beginning to advanced (folk, bluegrass, swing, rock, jazz, blues, ethnic/world)
- Song accompaniment for any instrument
- Learn the jaw harp, beginners
- Learn the 5-string banjo, beginners (old-time styles)
- Learn how to play “hambone”, beginners
- Learn how to play the spoons
- Discovering the fretboard (guitar or mandolin)
- Backup guitar, connecting chords with runs
- Music theory for folkies

- Music theory made simple

Songs, Tunes, Songfinding

- Traditional Songs of New York State (or The Northeast)
- Traditional Singers of New York State (or The Northeast)
- New York State's Mountain Music
- Regional Fiddle Tunes
- Chorus Songs
- Work Songs
- Occupational Songs
- Funny Songs
- Songs of the Lumberwoods
- Songs of our Waterways
- Folk and Country Blues of The Grateful Dead
- Songs from American Oral Tradition
- Working from "Source" Field Recordings
- Mining the Archives for Songs
- Singing with Children (for adults)
- Children's Concert
- Family Concert

Careers in the Arts

- The A-B-C's of Working in Schools
- The Non-Starving Artist

References



Dave's programs.

Hear from historical societies, museums, heritage sites, libraries, and others who've presented

[References here](#)

“Being a classical music SNOB, I never expected to be so delightfully entertained and educated”

– Ms. Joan Stock, Rochester NY

Heritage Music Projects

Dave's ongoing research into the music of specific time periods and regions of New York State has led to his involvement in a number of rewarding “heritage music” projects.

2017

Interview, performance, and all incidental music for [CBS Sunday Morning's July 9 cover story](#) on the 200th anniversary of construction on the Erie Canal.

Interview and performance for PBS documentary on the Erie Canal, scheduled for fall release.

2016

Working with [Traditional Arts in Upstate New York](#) on a project exploring French-American culture and music in Northern New York.

2014-Present

Consulting on a Delaware County traditional music project spearheaded by the Music on the Delaware board.

2014

Curated a series of programs for the [Friends of the Buffalo Story](#) at Buffalo's historic [Canalside](#) area, bringing the music and stories of the city's bustling 19th century waterfront to a new set of ears.

2011-2013



Holding the New England Emmy Award for the “Songs to Keep” PBS documentary

Music director for the “[Songs to Keep](#)” CD project and script writer/emcee/performer/music director for the “Songs to Keep” concert tour. This ambitious undertaking to celebrate the little-known song collecting work of Champlain Valley historian and journalist [Marjorie Lansing Porter](#) (1891-1973) was spearheaded by [Traditional Arts in Upstate New York](#) and included a new songbook, a new CD featuring contemporary musicians from the same region reinterpreting the old songs collected by Porter in the 1940’s and 50’s, a travelling exhibit, concert tour in the summer of 2013, and a PBS documentary special which has gone on to win a regional [Emmy Award](#) and has been broadcast on dozens of stations across the country.

Here’s a highlight reel of Dave’s segments in the documentary:

2006-2009

Project director for [an exhaustive website documenting traditional music of the Adirondack region of New York State](#) over the past 200 years. Dave's work included researching, interviewing, writing, editing, and recording as well as being responsible for the overall site architecture and the contributions of others. The site was published in 2009 and stands today as the definitive work on the topic. Winner of the 2010 Award of Merit from the Upstate History Alliance. www.adirondackmusic.org

Dave is happy to hear about your project, and may have some ideas centered around the traditional music of your local region.

Get Dave's News, Discounts, and More

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Close

Your Contact Information

*Required Fields

I'm interested in the following (check all that apply)*

- ☐ Possibly booking Dave for an in-person visit at some point
- ☐ Possibly booking an online concert or distance learning program at some point
- ☐ Subscribing to Blog for Performers
- ☐ Finding out about future performances for adults in my area
- ☐ Finding out about future performances for kids/families in my area

Additional Message to Dave

Captcha

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A CAPTCHA is a program that protects websites against SPAM by generating tests that humans can pass but malicious computer programs cannot.

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- [Media and Press Kits](#)

Quick Contact

Have questions or looking for booking information? Call Dave at 716-884-6855, or send him a message below.

Name*

Email*

Phone

Message

*Required

Send >